

Claims

[c1] We claim:

1. A ballot made for use in facilitating an election, the ballot comprising:
at least one surface in which election choices have been recorded and made visible in a permanent fashion;
said election choices are provided to voters for election purposes, and each election choice comprising both election data and a unique identifier; and
each said election choice additionally comprising said unique identifier, said identifier being a code that uniquely identifies said election choice, and which is printed on said ballot in a form as to be readable using an optical scanning means.

[c2] 2. The ballot of claim 1, which said election data includes candidate and office.

[c3] 3. The ballot of claim 1, which said election data includes questions and answer information as required for the election process.

[c4] 4. The ballot of claim 1, which said identifier is one-dimensional.

- [c5] 5. The ballot of claim 1, which said identifier is two-dimensional.
- [c6] 6. The ballot of claim 1, in which said election choices are printed on said ballot in a way as to enable a voter to clearly understand that a relationship exists between each said election data comprised in an election choice and each said unique identifier associated with the same election choice.
- [c7] 7. The ballot of claim 2, in which said ballot is made of a wear-and-tear-resistant material.
- [c8] 8. The ballot of claim 2, in which said ballot is made of paper.
- [c9] 9. An electronic voting device comprising:
a chassis;
an optical scanning means for reading unique identifiers printed on a ballot, said ballot having election choices with each election choice comprising both election data and a unique identifier;
a communication means;
a data transmission means for transmitting each said unique identifiers read through said optical scanning means off said ballot using said communications means to an external system.

- [c10] 10. The electronic voting device of claim 9 in which said communication means is done by a wireless communications.
- [c11] 11. The electronic voting device of claim 9 in which said chassis is designed to allow a voter to vote by holding and using said device in his or her hand.
- [c12] 12. The electronic voting device of claim 9 in which said external system is an electronic voting system with communication means suitable for establishing a communications channel between said device.
- [c13] 13. The electronic voting device of claim 9 in which said device can has an activation button.
- [c14] 14. The electronic voting device of claim 13 in which said activation button is used by the voter to activate said device's optical scanning means whenever said voter wishes to scan said ballot.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 9 in which said election choice of said voter's preference is transmitted to an external system for vote totalization purposes.
- [c16] 16. A method of casting votes comprising the steps of: having a voter being led to a voting enclosure where the voting process is to take place;

having said voter being handed both a electronic voting device and a ballot;

having said electronic voting device being comprised of a chassis, an optical scanning means for reading unique identifiers printed on a ballot, said ballot having election choices with each election choice comprising both election data and a unique identifier;

a communication means, and a data transmission means for transmitting each said unique identifiers read through said optical scanning means off said ballot using said communications means to an external system; having said ballot comprising at least one surface in which election choices have been recorded and made visible in a permanent fashion, said election choices are provided to voters for election purposes, and each election choice comprising both election data and a unique identifier, and each said election choice additionally comprising said unique identifier, said identifier being a code that uniquely identifies said election choice, and which is printed on said ballot in a form as to be readable using an optical scanning means;

having said voter using said device to scan the election choices found on said ballot by scanning the unique identifiers associated with the election choice of his or her preference; and

having said election choice of said voter's preference

being transmitted to an external system by said device.

- [c17] 17. The method of claim 16 in which said election choice of said voter's preference is transmitted to an external system for vote totalization purposes.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 16 in which said communication means is done by a wireless communications.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 16 in which said chassis is designed to allow a voter to vote by holding and using said device in his or her hand.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 16 in which said chassis has an activation button is used by the voter to activate said device's optical scanning means whenever said voter wishes to scan said ballot.